

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 14-17, 19, and 20 are currently active in this case.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicant's representative on August 29, 2006. During the interview, Applicant's representative argued that the applied prior art including the Joehlin et al. and Suzuki et al. patents failed to render Applicant's invention unpatentable. The examiner agreed with the argument and indicated that an updated prior art search would be conducted. Consequently, Applicant requests withdrawal of the current 35 USC 103(a) prior art rejection.

In view of the preceding remarks, no further issues are believed to be outstanding. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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